STATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF INDIANA

SSACI

ACTIVITY AND PROGRAM REPORT
FOR ACADEMIC YEAR
2003-2004

SEPTEMBER 2004

Activity and Program Report for Academic Year 2003-2004

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

… Patricia Moss

The first year of the biennium, 2003-2004, saw a continuation of unprecedented levels of support for students in Indiana colleges and universities. The Commission made awards to over 52,000 students for a total of $176,111,588.

Even with greater economic challenges, rising tuition costs, and increasing enrollments, full-need students at public institutions received up to $4,700 in grants and similar students attending independent colleges and universities received as much as $9,100 in tuition assistance.

There is both good and bad news. The good news is that Indiana has maintained its leadership position in providing financial aid to its citizens compared to other states. In 2002-03 Indiana was one of four states providing the greatest amount of grant aid per capita and the largest amount of aid per capita for the population between ages 18 and 24. We were also one of four states providing the most undergraduate grant dollars compared to undergraduate full time equivalent enrollment.

The bad news is that the maximum awards in 2003-04 were held at the same level as the previous year, and all indicators are that those levels will stay the same in the foreseeable future. Without increases in awards to offset rising tuition and falling incomes, Indiana will surely fall behind other states and, more importantly, make going to college more difficult for Hoosier students.

The future of Indiana's economy rests with many factors over which we have little control. However, greater access to, and greater choice, in higher education will continue to be our commitment to Hoosier students and a mission on which we will not compromise.

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATION

Commission Members

By Congressional District

As of August 2004

State Student Assistance Commission

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Vacant

2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Mr. Andre Gammage
South Bend, IN
Term: 2006

3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Mr. Thomas K. Borne
Fort Wayne, IN
Term: 2006
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Term: 2006

5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Mr. Mike Kennedy
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Term: 2007
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Term: 2007

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Term: 2007

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Mrs. Sylvia Kiel
Columbus, IN
Term: 2005
Secretary

STUDENT MEMBER
Ms. Deborah Crissman
Valparaiso, IN
Term: 2005
Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis

Commission Staff

As of August 2004

Administrative Division

Patricia Moss	*Executive Director*
Dennis Obergfell	*Deputy Director*
Nick Vesper	*Director of Policy Analysis & Research*
Helen Curley	*Executive Secretary*
Yvonne Heflin	*Human Resources Coordinator*
Basu Maharjan	*Director of Information Technology*
David Falls	*Senior Systems Analyst and Developer*

Accounting Division

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Bonnie Davis	*Acting Controller*
Larry Walters	*Mail Room Supervisor*

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Ada Davis	*Program Counselor*
Kathryn Moore	*Program Counselor & Outreach Coordinator*

Special Programs Division

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Tina Humphrey	*Minority Teacher Program Coordinator*
Zerda Blackmon	*Nursing Program Coordinator*

Twenty-first Century Scholars Division

Seana Murphy	*Director*
Timothy Martin	*Deputy Director*
Jennifer Joseph	*GEAR UP Coordinator*
Allison Knox	*Scholar Coordinator*
Ginny Ort	*Administrative Support*
Salena McClendon	*SEAS Enrollment Specialist*
Tene McDonald	*SEAS Enrollment Specialist*

ACTIVITIES

The 2003-04 academic year was a pivotal time for the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI). Coming right after a difficult legislative budget session, SSACI had to change the way in which it determined awards, setting maximums for students in all sectors. Despite the challenges, SSACI made every effort to meet its goals to make college more *affordable* for increasing numbers of students, to foster *choice* in where students could attend college, to increase academic *preparedness* for college, and to use *research* and *technology* to improve the delivery of awards to Hoosier students.

Challenges to the Budget

The 2003-04 academic year saw a number of budgetary challenges for SSACI. The Indiana University system, Ball State University, and Indiana State University joined the Purdue University System in using a two-tiered tuition system with new students paying an additional $500 to $1,000 depending on the campus, which amounted to a 20% to 34% increase in costs. At the same time, the other public colleges raised their tuition on average 12%. The increases immediately impacted the 21st Century Scholarship and the National Guard Supplemental Grant, both of which are indexed to the current tuition charged to students. These unanticipated increases put a strain on SSACI's biennial budgets that had been created in 2002-03.

Response to Budget Shortfall

An important change occurred during the calendar year: the 2003 General Assembly changed the way in which SSACI could reduce the Higher Education Award and Freedom of Choice grant in the event funds were not adequate to meet demand. The method had been *pro-ration* in which all awards would be reduced uniformly, regardless of the college the student attended and regardless of financial need. The new method allows SSACI to set a maximum award for each of the institutional sectors: public, independent, and proprietary.

This change together with limited appropriations meant that SSACI had to change how it calculated awards for the 2003-04 year. For the first time, SSACI placed a cap on the maximum public college tuition it could subsidize. It was set at $4,700, the maximum public college tuition in the previous year. Moreover, because of limited resources in the Freedom of Choice program, the independent colleges cap was reduced from $9,300 to $9,100.

Biennial Budget Preparation

A major activity of SSACI this year was to lay the groundwork for the preparation of the 2005-7 (FY06 and FY07) biennial budget, which was completed in August, 2004. Operating under severe financial restrictions, all special program grant requests were held at 2004-05 appropriations and the Agency administrative budget reduced by 2%. The Higher Education Award and Freedom of Choice Grant funding requests were increased to off-set anticipated higher enrollment but the tuition caps in place since 2003-04 were maintained.

New Initiatives

A number of initiatives were begun and completed in 2003-04: a program name

change, an expansion of academic programs and new technologies to increase efficiency and productivity.

Frank O'Bannon Grant

To honor the late Governor Frank O'Bannon and at the request of the Indiana General Assembly, SSACI changed the name of its major grant program from the Higher Education Grant to the Frank O'Bannon Grant. We were pleased to honor the Governor who strongly supported our programs.

GEAR UP Summer Scholarship

The Twenty-First Century Scholars GEAR UP Summer Scholarship program is designed to help 21st Century Scholars take the prerequisite classes they need during the summer term. It pays for tuition, books, and room and board when living on campus is required by the institution. It was expanded in 2003-04 to include all summer classes not just prerequisites, thus increasing the likelihood the students will graduate within four years.

GEAR UP Mentoring Program

The Twenty-First Century Scholars GEAR UP Mentoring program is designed to enable college junior and senior Scholars to serve as mentors to freshmen and sophomore Scholars. During the academic year, mentors are required to devote 20 hours per week to providing services to their fellow Scholars, for example, assistance in negotiating the college experience, academic tutoring, and peer to peer counseling. The mentor receives a stipend to supplement their other grant aid up to the cost of attendance less the expected family contribution.

INGUS: Indiana National Guard Update System

The Indiana National Guard Update System, **INGUS,** was developed as a web-based Internet application to facilitate the reporting of eligible Air Force and Army Indiana National Guard members to SSACI. The data is used to determine if the student is eligible for the National Guard Supplemental Grant (NGSG). Because the NGSG is awarded term by term, records must be entered or updated for each term. The reporting is crucial to the success of the NGSG program.

INGUS allows the user to

- Enter data on-line, one student or several students at a time; or upload a text file containing all student records.
- Update student records on-line to make necessary corrections to, for example, dates of birth or Social Security Numbers.
- Update student records on-line to change program status until a cutoff date, which varies by term.
- Print or display all records entered.

Hoosier Scholar Online Database

In the past, the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI) collected Hoosier Scholar candidate information using a paper format which was labor intensive. In an effort to streamline and better facilitate the scholar data collection process, SSACI developed the Hoosier *S*cholar *O*n*l*ine *D*atabase (**SOLD**). SOLD is designed to collect all information necessary to award Hoosier Scholarships such as the full name, address, high school, and other pertinent information of each primary and alternate candidate.

Nursing and Minority Teacher Program Billing

In 2001, SSACI had developed a system for colleges to electronically bill us for students in the *Child of Veteran and Public Safety Officer Supplemental Grant Program*. That system was expanded in 2003-04 to include all awards for the Nursing Scholarship and Minority Teacher Scholars, which are granted by the colleges. Colleges no longer have to bill SSACI for these awards using paper rosters and paper claim vouchers. Moreover, the new system implements a number of checks and balances, for example, it checks award requests against institutional allotments to make sure no college exceeds its award amounts, and it enables SSACI to verify and track employment once a student graduates.

SEAS: Scholar Enrollment and Affirmation System

In the summer of 2003 the decision was made to move the Twenty-first Century Scholar functions from the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center at Indiana University (Bloomington) to SSACI.

Working with outside consultants, SSACI developed the Scholar Enrollment and Affirmation System, **SEAS**, to fully implement and enhance its ability to enroll, track, and affirm Scholars from middle school to high school. This web-based fully interactive system is integrated with SSACI's **GRADS** application which means, for example, that GRADS award information can be directly updated from SEAS affirmation information.

It differs from the system at ICPAC in several significant ways, for example, enrollment forms can be scanned into the system rather than manually entered, and it permits users to select and download Scholar data in an efficient and flexible manner, eliminating the need for developing fixed reports.

Continuing Improvements: Technology

GRADS

The **G**rant **R**eporting **A**nd **D**elivery **S**ystem is a comprehensive client-server system that is the major part of the Agency's electronic data interchange system.

- It tracks parent and student supplied data from the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), which students must file each year with the federal government.
- It classifies students according to the type of program and award they are eligible to receive.
- It allows monitoring of FAFSA data to inform students of errors that could prevent them from receiving awards.
- It tracks statutory requirements for award eligibility.
- It creates awards based on the most accurate data available.
- It allows rapid changes in awards if college choices or family finances change before the start of classes.
- It creates electronic rosters of students and awards that can be accessed and processed by colleges.
- It enhanced the ability of the Agency to use Electronic Funds Transfer between the state and colleges for award payments.

In 2003-04, the system was modified to make it easier for staff to

clear student FAFSA problems and the "behind the scenes" GRADS database was directly linked with the databases that track student information for Core 40 and Academic Honors, Indiana National Guard, and Twenty-first Century Scholars. These changes resulted in greater efficiencies, productivity, and accuracy.

eGRADS

In order to bring accurate and timely information to the financial aid offices of the Commission's eligible colleges and universities, **eGRADS** was developed and made available first in 1999. The on-line web-based application allows colleges to access GRADS data to verify current student awards and display award history data. In addition, colleges can examine the status of their student's financial aid application for the coming academic year as soon as the data is available. In 2002 and 2003 the system was enhanced to display fee remission grants from the CVO Program and grants from the Nursing and Minority Teacher Scholarship programs.

iXchange

In cooperation with Access Indiana, the Agency improved its web-based system that enables colleges and universities to download student award information. **iXchange** ("information exchange") is an easy to use and secure system that replaced a multi-stage process for accessing data files. Besides award information the colleges can access copies of all documentation.

eStudent

SSACI's **eStudent** is a web-based application that enables Hoosier students to view their award history, check on problems with their financial aid applications, and change their college choice. The fact that students can make first-choice college changes on line has reduced the work of the Agency's staff and reduced the number of awards being sent to the wrong school. It was enhanced in 2002 to allow students to print their official awards on demand and in 2003 to display CVO fee remissions and Nursing and Minority Scholarship grants.

CHIPS: Core 40 and Honors Internet Update System

The **C**ore 40 and **H**onors **I**nternet u**P**date **S**ystem (**CHIPS**) is a web-based internet application that allows high school counselors to list pertinent data on their Academic Honors and Core 40 graduates. The data is used by SSACI to evaluate the student's eligibility for increased financial aid. Counselors can access the system from their offices and can update changes in eligibility throughout the summer before awards are created. Colleges and universities use the data for recruitment purposes. The system was enhanced in 2003 to improve functionality and compatibility with GRADS, for example, it reports to the counselor if the student match was successful and gives a reason if not.

WERRS: Work Experience Resume and Referral System

SSACI's work-study program provides a unique opportunity for college students to earn money during the summer or during college. To maximize the benefits of the program for both students and employers, *SSACI* greatly enhanced the web-based internet application **WERRS**–**W**ork **E**xperience **R**esume and **R**eferral **S**ystem.

This system allows *SSACI* to match students with particular skills, as described in their on-line resumes, to employers needing those skills. *WERRS* was enhanced to enable potential employers to access and download lists of eligible students.

Continuing Improvements: Programs

Fee Remission Programs

In 2002, the Indiana legislature expanded the fee remission program to include the children and spouses of emergency medical technicians killed in the line of duty. The *Child of Veteran and Public Safety Officer Supplemental Grant Program (CVO Program)* previously included the children of certain disabled or deceased veterans and the children and spouses of certain police and firefighters killed in the line of duty. The program is available only at publicly funded Indiana colleges and universities.

In 2003 SSACI enhanced its application for the public safety officer part of the program, set new satisfactory academic progress guidelines, and developed criteria for eligible high school students to take college courses.

Core 40 and Academic Honors

In 1997, the Agency introduced increased awards for high school students earning the Academic Honors Diplomas. In the following year the program was expanded to include Core 40 diplomas. Core 40 students with at least a 2.00 high school GPA could be eligible for an award 10% higher than otherwise, and Academic Honors students with at least a 3.00 GPA could receive an award 20% higher.

With changes in SSACI's CHIPS system came increased accuracy and efficiencies in making the awards.

Frank O'Bannon Grant Program

During the 2003-04 academic year, SSACI undertook a study of distance learning courses and how they are integrated with traditional courses in developing financial aid packages for students. As a result, SSACI is considering including many distance learning courses taught by eligible colleges as part of a student's credit hour load when determining eligibility for state grants.

PROGRAMS

The Agency administers three types of award programs: a mixed need and merit based award that is a combination of a tuition subsidy and a family's or student's ability to pay for college; a supplement to the need based award for participants in special programs; and a number of targeted awards based on merit or financial need.

The Frank O'Bannon Grant

This award is the core award administered by the Agency. It requires financial need, full time college enrollment and Indiana residency. It can be used only for tuition and certain fees. It is based on three factors:

- For each eligible postsecondary institution, the *tuition and fees* SSACI will subsidize.
- The *rate* at which the allowable tuition and fees are subsidized.
- The parent's or student's *ability to pay* for a college education.

The Frank O'Bannon Grant formula is simple:

$$\text{RATE}$$
$$\times$$
$$\text{TUITION AND FEES}$$
$$-$$
$$\text{ABILITY TO PAY}$$

To receive this award a student must file a FAFSA so that it is received by the federal processor by March 10th, correct by June 1st, meet the residency requirements, attend college full time, be in a degree-granting program, and maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Tuition and fees

Tuition and fees are set early in the financial aid year. They are determined by each college based on a typical 30 credit hour per year course load plus any regular fees assessed to all students. At public institutions the allowable tuition and fees is usually the advertised tuition or the cap, whichever is lower. The amount is determined by available funds. For 2003-04 the cap was $4,700.

The independent college cap is determined each year by looking at the true cost of tuition at Indiana's public colleges. This cost is roughly the state appropriation per student plus the amount a student pays in tuition. The cap is based on a formula that combines the lowest state appropriation per student and the highest public college tuition. It can be modified if funds are not adequate to cover costs. For 2003-04 the private college tuition cap was $9,100.

Subsidy rate

There are three subsidy rates: 100% for Academic Honors graduates, 90% for Core 40 graduates, and 80% for all other students.

Academic Honors students with at least a 3.00 high school GPA could receive the extra 20% and Core 40 students with at least a 2.00 GPA could receive the extra 10% in grant money.

It is through the subsidy rate that the Agency introduces the merit part of the Frank O'Bannon Grant.

Ability to pay

The parent's or student's ability to pay is determined by the federal government from FAFSA data. Unlike the federal government and other states, Indiana does not count dependent student earnings as part of the ability to pay. Thus students who work to earn money to pay for college can use that money for the costs of education not subsidized by SSACI such as room and board or textbooks. The following table shows the average ability to pay of students receiving a grant in 2003-04 by institutional type. It includes all students, dependent and independent.

Average Ability to Pay for College Academic Year 2003-04	
Institutional Type	Ability to Pay
Public	$1,503
Private	$2,442
Proprietary	$491
Reciprocity Agreement	$1,379
Community College	$922

The Higher Education Award

If a student attends a public or proprietary institution, the Frank O'Bannon Grant is called the *Higher Education Award (HEA)*. The general assembly appropriates a separate budget for this award.

Freedom of Choice Grant

If a student attends an independent college, the Frank O'Bannon Grant is broken up into two parts: 36% is designated the Higher Education Award and 64% the *Freedom of Choice (FOC)* grant. Students attending a private college are thus not given an additional award, although their awards are higher because the tuition and fees subsidized are higher. The general assembly appropriates a separate budget for the FOC award but it is supplemented each year with funds from Higher Education Award funds.

The Part-time Grant Program

The award is designed to encourage degree-seeking part-time undergraduates to start or complete their Associate or Baccalaureate degrees by subsidizing part-time tuition costs. The grant is calculated the same way as the Frank O'Bannon Grant using an 80% subsidy rate and the student's actual part-time tuition and fee charges.

Students must be enrolled in 3 to 11 credit hours to be considered for the grant. Funds are directly allocated to public and private colleges based on their past use of the grants and available funds, which can vary year by year. Colleges determine eligibility and make awards to students subject to Commission guidelines and review. In 2003-04 the typical student was enrolled for 7.47 credit hours and had earned a total of 47.08 hours before receiving the grant.

Part-time Awards
Percentage of Students by Degree Type

Year	2-Year Degree	4-Year Degree
1998	45.3	54.7
1999	45.1	54.9
2000	49.1	50.9
2001	50.5	49.5
2002	48.5	49.5
2003	47.7	52.3

Students Receiving Part-Time Grants

Year	Students	Awards
1998	4,680	$3,814,984
1999	5,762	$5,025,841
2000	6,620	$5,902,957
2001	6,366	$5,344,173
2002	5,764	$4,849,701
2003	5,695	$5,246,665

National Guard Supplemental Grant

This program began in the fall of 2000. It is intended to increase the ability of the Indiana National Guard, Army and Air Force, to recruit new members and retain present personnel. Until this program was established, Indiana was only 1 of 12 states and territories with no state tuition assistance programs targeted to National Guard members.

The NGS grant is similar to the Twenty-first Century Scholars award, but there are differences. First, the NGS is available to both full-time and part-time Guard members. Second, because of special Guard certification, a student could be eligible for the NGS one term,

not be for the second, but be reinstated for a third. Finally, the NGS is available only at Indiana public institutions.

The NGS grant is a supplement to either the HEA or the Part Time Grant (PTG). The idea of the NGS is simple: it guarantees to pay up to 100% of certain tuition charges after the HEA or the PTG and other tuition-specific aid are applied. Members of the Indiana National Guard must meet all requirements for the Frank O'Bannon Grant, be in active drilling status, and not have been AWOL in the preceding twelve months.

The number of Grants in 2003-04 decreased because of deployments of National Guard students to Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq, and Kuwait.

National Guard Supplemental Grants

Year	Students	Awards
2000	503	$1,026,094
2001	861	$1,842,824
2002	923	$2,214,787
2003	841	$2,215,806

The Twenty-first Century Scholars Program

The Twenty-first Century Scholars Program is designed to support and encourage youth from lower-income families to enter college through early intervention strategies and grants. Effective in 2002, students could enroll in the program when in the 7th or 8th grade.

The grant portion of the program is a supplement to the Frank O'Bannon Grant. It is the difference between the student's tuition and fees and the Grant. The program covers up to 100% of approved tuition. It is available to Scholars if they affirm their pledge in the 12th grade and enroll in college as a full time student within two years of high school graduation.

The early intervention strategies are aimed at enrolled Scholars and their parents in the seventh through twelfth grades. They are administered from 16 sites around the state covering all 92 counties. The sites are under contract with the Office of Twenty-first Century Scholars and are closely monitored.

The purposes of the Scholar's Program are to:

- Reduce the number of students who withdraw from high school before graduation;
- Increase the number of students prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation;
- Increase the number of low-income students entering institutions of higher education;
- Decrease drug and alcohol use by encouraging higher education pursuits;
- Increase individual economic productivity; and
- Improve the overall quality of life for Indiana residents.

The Scholars program is nationally recognized as a successful early intervention program. It was the topic of a "Best Practices" workshop and meeting sponsored by the National Governor's Association in August of 2002. One of its key features is its Parent's Project. Research has repeatedly shown that parental support and encouragement are the most important factors in a high schoolers decision to go to college. The

Scholar's Program works with parents so that they can fully support their children.

Early Intervention

Scholars engage in a wide variety of early intervention strategies when they are in high school. For example, to introduce more students to college life, the Scholars Program has a minimum standard requiring each of its regional support sites to provide at least 10 campus visits a year. Virtual campus visits have become popular with many students although they are not counted towards the regional support sites minimum standard.

The Office of Twenty-First Century Scholars Program works with local colleges and universities to sponsor camps that allow Scholars access to college campus life during two day and one night retreats. Additionally, many state supported institutions and private institutions sponsor Scholar Days.

In 2003-04,

- 13,476 Scholars received tutoring, mentoring, academic counseling and other support services;
- 2,649 Scholars participated in college visits;
- 4,914 Scholars completed Senior Exit Interviews;
- 597 parents participated in college visits;
- 6,532 parents received services from local support sites;
- 960 parents participated in Regional Parent conferences;
- 325 parents attended the Annual State Parent Conference; and
- 16 Parent Leaders completed 120 hours professional development.

Community Based Activities

To help ensure that young people from at-risk environments stay on track to fulfill their pledge of good citizenry and their goal of higher education, Scholars must have the commitment of the entire community. In addition to enabling Scholars to earn tuition assistance, the program engages Scholars, their families, and their communities in a holistic, network of support initiatives. The aim of these initiatives is to build resiliency—to foster an academically encouraging environment for Scholars, while empowering parents to serve as the educational leaders in Scholars' lives.

GEAR UP

The Twenty-first Century Scholars Program is in its last year of a five-year $25 million grant from the U. S. Department of Education. *Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Under-graduate Programs*, or GEAR UP, provides funds for early intervention and scholarships for students who face financial and other barriers to college success. Five million dollars per year through 2004-05 provides resources to expand regional support services and to fund scholarship programs.

GEAR UP Scholarships

Many Scholars need to take basic courses that apply to general credit hour requirements but not to their major programs. If a Scholar takes basic college courses in the summer before enrolling in a regular program in the fall, existing state grants will not pay for any costs. Similarly, Scholars who take basic courses in the fall semester will find themselves falling behind in their major

program requirements unless they can attend the following summer session. The *Summer Scholarships* fill the gap for these Scholars. Expanded in 2003-04, Scholars can now take summer classes that apply to their program and will help them graduate in four years. Colleges count summer sessions in different academic years. The sessions are combined in the table.

GEAR UP Summer Scholarship

Years	Students	Grants
2002-03 & 2003-04	1,539	$493,513

The Scholars program has expanded the capacity of the 16 regional support sites to provide early intervention services and to prepare Scholars to succeed in college. Of equal importance is the continuing support of Scholars in the college setting. In 2003 the *Mentoring Scholarship* program was enhanced from a pilot program at five public colleges to include all eligible colleges. This program enables each of the mentoring programs at the colleges to hire Scholar Mentors. In addition to paying college fees, a salary is paid to students for work performed. The students are junior or senior Scholars and expected to work in the mentoring program up to 20 hours per week for 12 months of the year.

GEAR UP Mentorship

Year	Students	Grants
2003-04	931	$994,555

Scholar Track: Student and Parent Services

Collecting information on early intervention activities for Scholars in high school is essential for the continuing success of the Program. *Scholar Track* is a comprehensive web-based data recording system that tracks Scholars and their parents who are engaged in the activities offered by the sixteen sites across the state. Data is collected on a weekly or monthly basis and used to fine-tune early intervention strategies and meet Scholar needs.

Child of Veteran and Public Safety Officer Supplemental Grant Program

This program—the *CVO Program*— provides tuition and fee assistance at public colleges for eligible children of disabled Indiana veterans and eligible children and spouses of certain Indiana public safety officers killed in the line of duty. The grant pays 100% of tuition and program related mandatory fees; it does not cover fees such as room and board.

Students who might be covered under the *veterans'* portion of the program are:

- Certain graduates of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home.
- Children of a Purple Heart recipient or a wounded veteran.
- Children of deceased or disabled veteran.
- Children of POW/MIA from the Vietnam War.

Some program restrictions apply and financial assistance may be limited to a maximum number of credit hours. The veteran must meet, or have met, certain Indiana residency requirements, and the child must be the biological child or legally adopted dependent child of the veteran. An application is required through the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA).

Students who might be covered under the *public safety officers'* portion of the program are:

- A child of a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician killed in the line of duty.
- A spouse of a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician killed in the line of duty.

In most cases the deceased public safety officer must be covered under the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund and in addition be one of the following:

- a regular, paid police officer;
- a regular, paid firefighter;
- a volunteer firefighter;
- a county police reserve officer;
- a city police reserve officer;
- a paramedic; or
- an emergency medical technician.

Some program restrictions apply and financial assistance may be limited. Children must be less than 23 years of age, full-time students, and the biological or legally adopted dependent child of the public safety officer. Spouses must be enrolled in an undergraduate program.

An application was introduced by the Agency in 2002-03 and enhanced in 2003-04 and made available on SSACI's web page. As part of the application, the student must have an official letter from the appropriate public safety department verifying that the officer was killed in the line of duty. SSACI verifies the information with the appropriate state agency.

Fee Remissions Used by Students
Academic Year 2003-04

Fee Remission Type	Students	Fee Remission
Child of deceased or disabled veteran	5,162	$13,797,058
Child of deceased public safety officer	6	$23,643
Child of Purple Heart recipient	448	$1,203,811
Pupil in Soldier and Sailors Home	25	$57,111
Spouse of deceased public safety officer	1	$2,647
Total	5,642	$15,084,270

Program growth

All Programs

Over the past few years, there have been steady increases in the number of students receiving state aid as well as increases in the costs of the programs.

Percentage Increase in the Number of Students Receiving State Aid

2001 to 2002	2002 to 2003
8.90%	7.80%

Most of the increases in student numbers have been in the Frank O'Bannon Grant program with the most notable increases being in the Community College system and at proprietary schools.

Scholar's Program

The following table shows the growth in the Scholars program since 1995. It

includes only the high school graduates for that cohort year. The students counted in the Enrolled column signed up for the program in elementary school. The Affirmed column shows how many affirmed their Pledge in the 12th grade and planned on going to college. The program is working hard to increase the affirmation rates of students.

21st Century Scholars
Enrolled and Affirmed

Cohort	Enrolled	Affirmed
1995	5,719	2,563
1996	6,315	2,838
1997	5,235	2,609
1998	5,234	2,641
1999	5,646	3,002
2000	6,606	3,410
2001	8,067	3,927
2002	8,299	3,896
2003	9,919	4,780

The following table shows how the program has grown in the number of students entering college.

New Scholars Filing a FAFSA

Year	New Scholars
1995	1,424
1996	2,562
1997	2,327
1998	2,342
1999	2,588
2000	3,248
2001	3,514
2002	3,811
2003	4,780

The next table of used awards includes all Scholars enrolled in college

for the year; it shows the growth in awards.

Awards Used by 21st Century Scholars

Year	Students	Awards
1995	1,463	$1,897,143
1996	2,815	$3,586,763
1997	3,540	$4,771,556
1998	4,382	$6,349,763
1999	4,600	$6,884,035
2000	5,033	$7,583,425
2001	5,984	$9,379,520
2002	6,942	$12,476,996
2003	7,639	$14,714,426

Many GEAR UP/21st Century Scholars take advanced high school curricula to earn the Core 40 diploma or more advanced courses to earn the Academic Honors Diploma. Of the 7,597 Scholars receiving state aid in 2003-04, 2,496 had earned the Core 40 Diploma and 1,940 the Honors Diploma.

Academic Honors and Core 40

The following table shows the growth in Academic Honors and Core 40 students receiving state aid since 1997 when the Academic Honors program was first introduced as a merit component of the state need-based grant programs. The Core 40 program was added in 1998.

Students Receiving Extra State Aid

Year	Core 40	Honors
1997		2,267
1998	2,858	4,675
1999	5,013	6,663

Year	Core 40	Honors
2000	6,812	8,498
2001	8,245	9,288
2002	9,557	10,837
2003	10,696	12,032

Outreach Coordination

SSACI engages in an extensive series of education programs for all its constituents: students from the seventh grade through seniors in high school and college, parents familiar with the college experience and financial aid to those with little or no knowledge of either, high school and college admissions counselors, Indiana National Guard recruiters, early intervention program staff, college financial aid staff, state and federal legislators and their staff, and other state and federal government officials. At the start of the 2003-04 school year alone, SSACI made twenty-four presentations around the state.

Through a variety of media, *SSACI* educates its constituents on preparing for college, choosing a college, general financial aid strategies, and the specific aid programs offered by the state. A variety of methods are used to get the message across: formal presentations to high school and college groups, publication of brochures, maintenance of a World Wide Web site, booths at various special functions, mailings to students and parents, on-line access to its databases for college financial aid and admissions offices, hands-on work with students and parents in completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), in-service training for state-

wide early intervention staff, support for parents of high school students in arranging college campus visits and Core 40 academic counseling, and direct mailings to seventh and eighth graders and high school students.

Targeted Special programs

The Hoosier Scholar Program

This scholarship is a one-time $500 award given directly to outstanding high school students entering their first year at an Indiana college. Students are nominated by their high schools and are usually the top students in their classes.

Hoosier Scholar Program
2003-04

Institution Type	Students	Awards
Public	483	$241,500
Private	310	$155,000
Proprietary	1	$500
Total	794	$397,000

The Minority Teacher and Special Education Services Scholarship Program

This program was created to provide renewable scholarships for African American and Hispanic students preparing for a teaching career. Minority students demonstrating financial need may receive up to $4,000 annually; for non-minority students the maximum award is $1,000 and is not need-based. Special education students can receive a scholarship regardless of their ethnicity. Colleges select the recipients and determine the amount of the award when reviewing a scholar's financial aid package. Students

are required to work in Indiana after graduation.

Minority Teacher and Special Education 2003-04

Institutional Type	Students	Awards
Minority Teachers		
Public	188	$296,811
Independent	30	$49,200
Special Education		
Public	80	$84,300
Independent	34	$33,537
Total All Programs	332	$463,848

The State Work Study Program

The program is designed to help students gain work experience and earn money towards their college expenses. It subsidizes the hourly wages of students so that not-for-profit agencies and postsecondary institutions can hire the students within their limited budgets. It is available only to students receiving a need-based state grant in the prior year.

Work Study Program 2003-04

Employer	Students	Awards
Public Institutions	64	$71,693
Private Institutions	75	$64,331
Not-for-Profit	108	$147,502
State Agencies	49	$84,672
City & Local Govt.	153	$202,648
Totals	449	$570,846

The Nursing Fund Scholarship Program

This program is designed to encourage students to pursue a career in nursing. Certain eligible institutions are allocated money based on the number of nursing students they enroll. The scholarship is renewable. The maximum annual scholarship is $5,000 and can only be applied towards tuition and fees. Colleges select the recipients and determine the actual award amount when developing a scholar's financial aid package. Students are required to work in Indiana after graduation.

Nursing Scholarship Program 2003-04

Institutional Type	Students	Awards
Public	350	$257,412
Independent	107	$67,285
Total	457	$324,697

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program

The scholarship is designed to promote and award outstanding academic achievement of new college students. Students are chosen based on their class rank, grade point averages, and SAT/ACT test scores. It is funded by the federal government but administered by SSACI. It can be used to attend out-of-state colleges.

Byrd Scholarships 2003-04

Institutional Type	Students	Amount
In-State		
Public	158	$186,500
Independent	156	$232,438
Out-of-State		
Public	90	$130,000
Independent	154	$222,000
Total	558	$770,938

The Reciprocity Agreement Program

This program provides tuition assistance to Hoosier students residing in a six county area of southeastern Indiana: Dearborn, Franklin, Jefferson, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland counties. Three colleges participate in the program: Northern Kentucky University, the University of Cincinnati, and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. Northern Kentucky, at its request, is being phased out of the program. There are two parts to this program: Higher Education Awards to eligible students and direct payments to the schools to offset out-of-state fees.

Reciprocity Agreement Payments
2003-04

School	Students	Payments
Northern Kentucky	283	$100,000
Cincinnati State	182	$163,870
Univ. of Cincinnati	66	$109,600
Totals	531	$373,470

Specter Grant

SSACI administers an Indiana Department of Correction federal grant that provides financial aid support for youth offenders who have earned a GED or high school diploma and are enrolled in a higher education program at an eligible institution. A youth offender is a male or female under the age of 25 who is eligible for release or parole within five years.

The grants can be used at public or independent colleges that have programs approved by the Indiana Department of

Corrections and SSACI. It can be used when the student is not eligible for state aid or to supplement state aid.

Specter Federal Grant
2003-04

Institutional Type	Students	Grants
Public	90	$179,731
Independent	50	$91,500
Total	143	$271,231

AWARDS GRANTED

The following tables and charts show the awards used by students and the total expenditures of the Agency for 2003-04.

The first table shows the Frank O'Bannon Grant (Higher Education Award and the Freedom of Choice grant) broken down by institutional and award type: base awards at 80%, Core 40 at 90% and Academic Honors at 100% subsidy. The second table shows all major awards granted by the Agency: Higher Education, Freedom of Choice, 21st Century Scholarship, National Guard, and Part-time Awards. The tables are summarized in two sets of pie charts showing the number of students and total dollars, one set for the Frank O'Bannon Grant, the other for all major awards.

The third table lists all expenditures by the Agency for 2003-04: grants, programs, and administration. It combines state and federal resources as dollar amounts and as percentages of the total expenditures. The dollar amounts are summarized in a pie chart.

Tables: Summary of Major Awards and Grants

Awards Used by Students
Academic Year 2003-04

Higher Education Award and Freedom of Choice Grant by Subsidy Rates:
Base 80%, Core 40 90%, and Academic Honors 100% Subsidy Rates

Institutional Type		HEA	FOC	Base HEA	Base FOC	Core 40 HEA	Core 40 FOC	Honors HEA	Honors FOC
Public	Students	25,559		11,504		6,961		7,094	
	Mean	$2,411		$2,285		$2,412		$2,612	
	Median	$2,404		$2,353		$2,348		$2,526	
	Total	$61,614,039		$26,291,144		$16,790,965		$18,531,930	
Private	Students	11,861	11,861	4,515	4,515	2,681	2,681	4,665	4,665
	Mean	$1,712	$3,179	$1,537	$2,853	$1,749	$3,249	$1,861	$3,454
	Median	$1,722	$3,198	$1,478	$2,746	$1,795	$3,334	$1,900	$3,526
	Total	$20,307,678	$37,708,213	$6,938,240	$12,883,117	$4,690,200	$8,710,581	$8,679,238	$16,114,515
Proprietary	Students	2,035		1,827		177		31	
	Mean	$1,178		$1,160		$1,338		$1,314	
	Median	$1,206		$1,206		$1,356		$1,150	
	Total	$2,397,410		$2,119,840		$236,825		$40,745	
Reciprocity Agreement	Students	112		52		40		20	
	Mean	$2,151		$2,093		$2,288		$2,029	
	Median	$1,929		$1,886		$2,225		$1,929	
	Total	$240,953		$108,837		$91,538		$40,578	
Community College (IVTSC/VU)	Students	5,848		4,790		837		221	
	Mean	$1,117		$1,084		$1,246		$1,335	
	Median	$906		$906		$1,092		$1,096	
	Total	$6,529,845		$5,192,132		$1,042,727		$294,986	
All Schools	Students	45,415	11,861	22,688	4,515	10,696	2,681	12,031	4,665
	Mean	$2,006	$3,179	$1,792	$2,853	$2,137	$3,249	$2,293	$3,454
	Median	$1,812	$3,198	$1,584	$2,746	$2,034	$3,334	$2,220	$3,526
	Total	$91,089,925	$37,708,213	$40,650,193	$12,883,117	$22,852,255	$8,710,581	$27,587,477	$16,114,515

Awards Used by Students
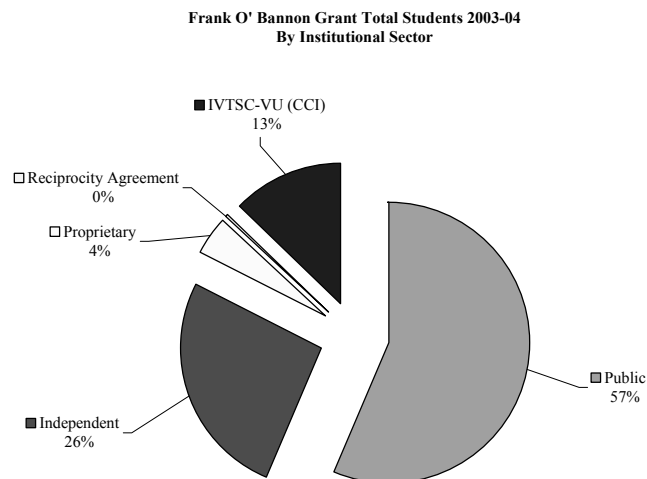**Academic Year 2003-04**

Higher Education, Freedom of Choice, 21st Century Scholarship, National Guard, and Part-time Awards

Institutional Type		All Awards	HEA	FOC	21st Scholarships	National Guard Awards	Part-time Awards
Public	Students	29,069	25,559		4,952	697	2,814
	Mean	$2,650	$2,411		$2,138	$2,921	$993
	Median	$2,566	$2,404		$1,720	$2,640	$923
	Total	$77,033,793	$61,614,039		$10,588,631	$2,035,777	$2,795,346
Private	Students	12,714	11,861	11,861	1,242		937
	Mean	$4,892	$1,712	$3,179	$2,195		$1,558
	Median	$4,724	$1,722	$3,198	$1,820		$1,331
	Total	$62,201,959	$20,307,678	$37,708,213	$2,726,298		$1,459,770
Proprietary	Students	2,089	2,035		208		
	Mean	$1,236	$1,178		$886		
	Median	$1,206	$1,206		$567		
	Total	$2,581,672	$2,397,410		$184,262		
Reciprocity Agreement	Students	112	112				
	Mean	$2,151	$2,151				
	Median	$1,929	$1,929				
	Total	$240,953	$240,953				
Community College (IVTSC/VU)	Students	7,986	5,848		1,237	144	1,944
	Mean	$1,117	$1,117		$982	$1,250	$510
	Median	$957	$906		$786	$1,010	$492
	Total	$8,916,658	$6,529,845		$1,215,235	$180,029	$991,549
All Schools	Students	51,970	45,415	11,861	7,639	841	5,695
	Mean	$2,905	$2,006	$3,179	$1,926	$2,635	$921
	Median	$2,376	$1,812	$3,198	$1,575	$2,310	$748
	Total	$150,975,035	$91,089,925	$37,708,213	$14,714,426	$2,215,806	$5,246,665

Charts: Comparison of Students and Dollars for the Frank O'Bannon Grant in 2003-04 by Institutional Type

Total Number of Students Receiving Frank O'Bannon Grant by Institutional Type

Frank O' Bannon Grant Total Students 2003-04
By Institutional Sector

- IVTSC-VU (CCI) 13%
- Reciprocity Agreement 0%
- Proprietary 4%
- Public 57%
- Independent 26%

Total State Frank O'Bannon Dollars Awarded by Institutional Type

Frank O' Bannon Grant Total Dollars 2003-04
By Institutional Sector

- Reciprocity Agreement 0%
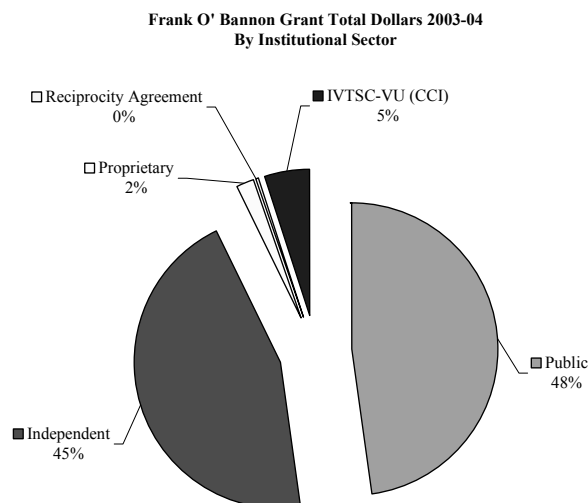- IVTSC-VU (CCI) 5%
- Proprietary 2%
- Public 48%
- Independent 45%

Charts: Comparison of Students and Dollars for All Major Grants in 2003-04 by Institutional Type

Total Number of Students Receiving All State Grants by Institutional Type

Total Number of Students Receiving State Grants in 2003-04
By Institutional Sector

- Community College (IVTSC/VU) 15%
- Reciprocity Agreement 0%
- Proprietary 4%
- Private 24%
- Public 57%

Total State Grant Dollars Awarded by Institutional Type

Total State Grant Dollars Awarded in 2003-04
By Institutional Sector

- Community College (IVTSC/VU) 6%
- Reciprocity Agreement 0%
- Proprietary 2%
- Private 41%
- Public 51%
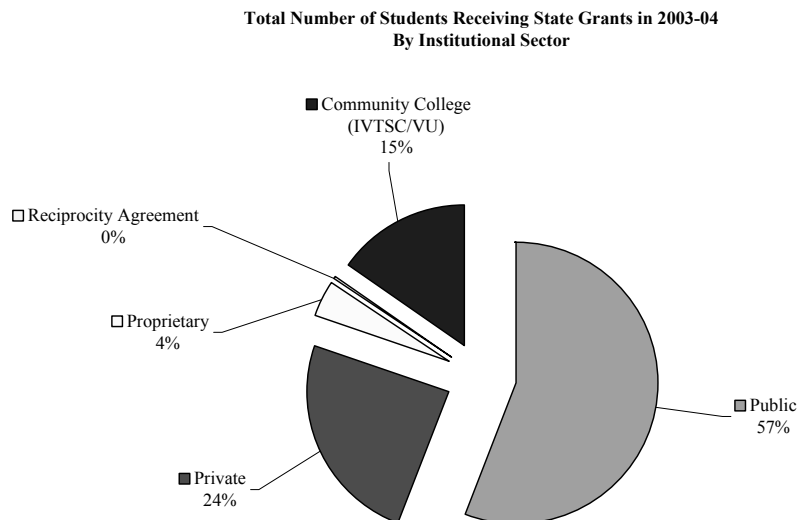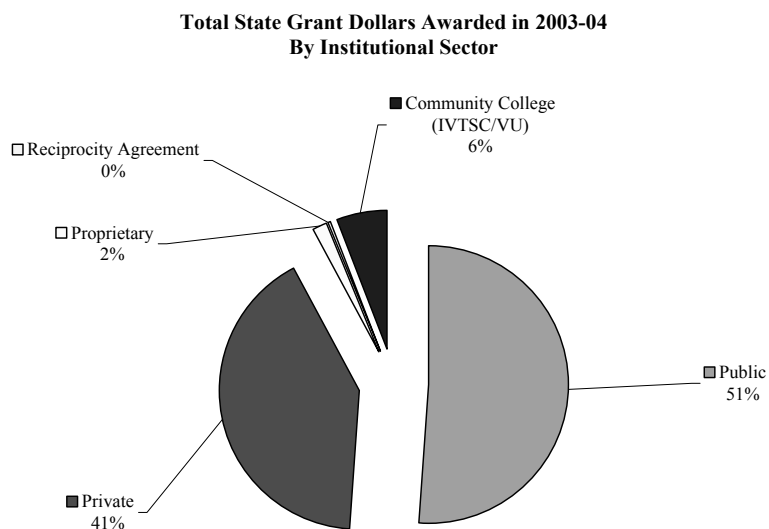
Table: Summary of All Agency Expenditures: 2003-04

Expenditures From All Sources, State And Federal	2003-04	
	Dollar	Percent
Programs, Awards & Grants		
Higher Education Award	$91,089,925	51.06%
Freedom of Choice	$37,708,213	21.14%
Hoosier Scholars	$397,000	0.22%
Reciprocity Agreements	$373,470	0.21%
Part-time Grant	$5,254,665	2.95%
National Guard Grant	$2,215,806	1.24%
Specter Grant	$271,231	0.15%
Fee Remission	$15,084,270	8.46%
Minority and Special Education Teacher Scholarship	$463,848	0.26%
Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program	$0	0.00%
State College Work Study	$570,846	0.32%
Nursing Scholarship	$324,697	0.18%
21st Century Scholarships	$14,656,835	8.22%
21st Century Early Intervention	$2,344,846	1.31%
21st Century Early Intervention Gear Up	$4,584,998	2.57%
Robert C. Byrd Scholarships	$770,938	0.43%
Total Awards & Grants	$176,111,588	98.72%
Administrative Expenditures		
Scholarships & Grants	$1,227,993	0.69%
Minority and Special Education Teacher Scholarship	$3,179	0.00%
Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program	$0	0.00%
State College Work Study	$147,628	0.08%
Nursing Scholarship Program	$32,712	0.02%
Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Program	$0	0.00%
Department of Corrections Grant	$13,562	0.01%
21st Century Administration	$859,325	0.48%
Total Administrative Expenditures	$2,284,399	1.28%
Total Expenditures	$178,395,986	100.00%

Chart: Combined Program, Award, and Grant Expenditures 2003-04

Program, award, and grant expenditures 2003-04

- 21st Century Scholarships
- 21st Century Early Intervention
- 21st Century Early Intervention Gear Up
- Nursing Scholarship
- State College Work Study
- Robert C. Byrd Scholarships
- Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program
- Minority and Special Education Teacher Scholarship
- Fee Remission
- Specter Grant
- National Guard Grant
- Part-time Grant
- Reciprocity Agreements
- Higher Education Award
- Hoosier Scholars
- Freedom of Choice